

ORAL QUESTION H-0626/03

for Question Time at the part-session in October 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Efstratios Korakas
to the Commission

Subject: Inadmissible iris scans carried out by Alitalia at Athens airport

Great concern has been caused in Greece by the introduction of personal biometric information recording on intra-Community flights, in particular, iris scans by the Alitalia airline at the Eleftherios Venizelos Airport, without the civil aviation's security service being apprised of this. These measures form part of the agreement between the EU and the USA to combat terrorism and have been taken in response to US demands for airlines to provide 39 items of biometric and other data.

What view does the Commission take of such measures? Who records the data? For how long is it kept and how is it used? Are such measures compatible with the need to protect and uphold the human rights of EU citizens and the Commission's contractual monitoring obligations in this respect?

Tabled: 09.10.2003

el